

The TALE of the K
RAVEN
AND THE
BLACKBIRD.

By the Author of the *Blackbird's Song*.

— *Si monitis tardas adverteret aures,
Heu referet quanto verba dolere mea!*



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The TALE of the
R A V E N
 AND THE
B L A C K B I R D.

AS on a Bough the *BLACKBIRD* sat,
 Mourning the Mannor's wretched state,
 A *RAVEN* from an aged Oak.
 Did thus in doleful Accents croak.

I've heard with Pleasure, and with Pain,
 How you, *good Bird*, did late complain;
 And stand amaz'd, the thoughtless *Throng*,
 So ill regard your honest Song.

Your Notes were modest, plain and true,
 And, what was more, Impartial too;
 And sure, if your *Design* should fail,
 No *Notes* for ever can prevail.

If the new Lord disdain to hear,
 Those pondrous *Truths* concern him near;
 Too late, I fear, too late, alas!
 He'll see his own and our hard Case.

Our Discontents are grown so high,
 One Party's Ruin must be nigh;
 And, if that common *Fame* speak true,
 The chief Design is aim'd at You,

The *Cuckows*, *Jays*, the *Daws*, and *Pies*,
 Fill all the *Groves* and *Springs* with Lies,
 And flutter round from place to place,
 To bring your Tribe into disgrace.

In yonder Orchard, yother Day,
 I heard a haughty Buzzard say,
 If we permit these *Blackbirds* long,
 For us at last they'll grow too strong;

Beside, do all we can, I fear,
 Their Notes will reach our Landlord's Ear;
 And should he chance to hear them sing,
 They'd us to Shame and Ruin bring.

Already this Sagacious Tribe,
 Have drawn the Peasants to their side,
 And in a little time will draw
 The *Soldiers* and the *Men of Law*,

Therefore we must a Way find out,
 To make these *Songsters* tack about,
 And if in that they won't comply,
 We must a **COMPREHENSION** try,

Something must speedily be done,
 They must not at this rate go on;

For

For if they do, the Case is plain,
We all shall lose our Posts again.

The late *Attempt* that has been made,
To regulate their *Canting Trade*,
Has but the more inflam'd their *Notes*,
And made them wider stretch their *Throats*.

Now ev'ry Bush, and ev'ry Tree,
Rings with their curled Harmony;
And all the *Tenants* round the *Mannour*,
Begin again to pay them Honour.

More he had said, but comes a Crow,
In mighty haste, to let him know,
The *'Squire* and *'Spouse* were both preparing,
To walk abroad and take an Airing.

Now give me leave, dear Bird, to ask,
(If it be no ungrateful Task)
What are your Thoughts? I'll tell you mine,
With *Frankness* and without *Design*.

The *Blackbird*, who had never yet
The *Raven* at a Conference met,
First paus'd a while, and then replies,
I false and flatt'ring *Notes* despise.

Let *Buzzards*, *Gulls*, and *Owls* abuse
The *Stranger's* Ears with *Tales* and *News*,
And *Magpies*, *Kites*, and *Rooks* and *Daws*,
Perplex him, and prescribe him *Laws*.

And

And let the *Bats* and *Birds of Night*,
 Pursue us with their utmost Spight,
 And all the **FACTIOUS BROOD** agree,
 To *Persecute* my *Tribe* and me,

It shall be still my chief *Design*,
 Their **WICKED ARTS** to *Countermine* ;
 Still I'll go on to shew the Stranger,
 His own, and all the *Mannor's Danger*.

If he my humble Song reject,
 And his own Safety will neglect,
 This Satisfaction I shall have,
 I've done my part the *Grange* to save,

Those wicked Fowl about him ply,
 I know will all their *Cunning* try,
 That he may neither hear nor see,
 A *Bird of Truth* or *Honesty*.

They will, with their perpetual Noise,
 Drown ev'ry faithful *Blackbird's* Voice,
 And keep him clearly out of sight,
 From all that would inform him right.

He's so intirely in their Power,
 There's not a Day, nay, scarce an Hour,
 But some of these inspecting come,
 And hunt him round from Room to Room.

If by great chance a Bird is there,
 To whom the *Mansion's* Safety's dear,

They

They with tumultuous Outcries run,
Take care, my Lord, you'll be undone:

To hear these *High-flown Traytors* prate,
You run the Danger of your Fate;
You must not to their Notes give ear,
Would you preserve your Quiet here.

On us you safely may depend,
'Tis we alone can you defend;
We, only we, have Power and Skill,
You, and this Grange to guard from ill.

And thus he's frightened and cajol'd,
And has such dreadful Stories told,
That 'twould be nonsense to believe
He to his Friends should credit give.

At this the *Raven* gave a Groan,
And thus renews his doleful moan:
Unhappy's he whom *Jays* and *Pies*,
And *Rooks*, and *Owls*, and *Kites* advise.

And most unhappy sure is he,
Who cannot from their Claws get free;
Tho' he to Demonstration knows,
That they by nature are his Foes.

But, not to carry things too far,
Some *Fowls* and *Birds* about him are,
That, I presume, do all they can,
To settle and preserve the *Man*.

But

But these, alas! are far too few,
 To circumvent that furious *Crew*,
 Who now in swarms infest the *Dome*,
 And push our Ruin and their own.

To this the Bird made this Reply,
 I will not what you say deny;
 There may perhaps, be two or three,
 That Vertue have and *Prобы*.

But these are only kept for Show,
 And little of their Secrets know;
 Nor will they longer them endure,
 Than they can make their *Game* secure.

The only thing that I admire,
 These few don't quietly retire,
 Before they are so far drawn in,
 That they can ne'er get out again.

This is the only way they have,
 Their *Master* and *themselves* to save,
 And more, by doing this they'd do
 Some Service to the *Publick* too.

When all the *Groves* and *Springs* shall see,
 Birds fam'd for their Integrity,
 Resign their *Trusts* and *Posts* of Honour,
 'Twill mightily alarm the *Mannour*.

Our

Our Landlord too when he shall view,
Himself alone amidst a Crew
Of Kites and Crows, and Birds of Prey,
Will hardly think it safe to stay.

As I was sitting in the Grove,
I heard a Finch thus tell the Dove,
That Things were hurry'd on, so fast,
He must be forc'd to quit at last.

I cannot bear (says he) to hear,
Peacocks and Parrots domineer,
And Cuckoos without Sense or Shame,
Dictate, and then Revile the D A M E.

Beside, our Party is so small,
That they before 'em carry all,
And whatsoever we propose,
They slight, and it for Nothing goes.

Again I met him t'other Day,
And he was further pleas'd to say,
That things were manag'd with that Heat,
He was determin'd to retreat.

That all their Notions were so mixt,
And all their Councils so perplext,
So dangerous and so uncommon,
It was not safe to be among 'em.

I will retreat, (says he) before
They've got me further in their Power,

B

Then

Then ev'ry *Wood* and ev'ry *Spring*,
Shall with their vile *Proposals* ring.

They run so counter to all *Law*,
Their old and trusty *Friends* withdraw,
For tho' they dearly love the *Cause*,
They won't break in upon the *Laws*.

The *Fowls* and *Birds* of *Wealth* and *Sense*,
Are always cautious of *Offence*,
They'd share the *Pow'r* and *Profit* too,
But would not dang'rous *Wars* pursue.

Beside, they think they're not so plac'd,
But *Things* may change, and they disgrac'd,
Therefore between *Extreams* they fly,
Not much too *Low*, nor much too high.

Both *Parties* use them for their *Tools*.
And they make both the *Parties* *Foots*,
And keep it in their *Power* still,
To serve 'em well, or serve 'em ill.

Thus far the *Finch*, from whence 'tis clear,
What a strange mottled *Brood* is here,
Of various *Size*, and various *Shape*,
And *Natures* diff'rent as their *Make*.

But tho' they differ thus in *Frame*,
Yet still their *Aims* are all the same,
Pow'r and the *Plunder* of the *Grange*,
They all pursue, and cannot change.

For

For these they scratch and make a Pother,
Chatter and peck at one another,
For these new Stratagems inven:
Doubts, Jealousies and Fews foment.

For let the Cause be what it will,
Int'rest and Power govern still,
Pride and *Revenge*, and *Thoughts* to Rule,
When they command, grow tame and cool.

'Tis true, *Ambition* often brings
Confusion to the Groves and Springs,
Nor has *Revenge*, *Envy* and *Pride*,
Unactive been on either Side.

Much *Mischief* has by them been done,
But still 'twas *Int'rest* led 'em on;
They are but Hand-maids in the Trade,
And for their *Mischief* must be paid.

Oh, says the *Raven*, this is true,
The greater our *Misfortune* too,
And if they thus our Lord surround,
They'll him and all he has confound.

But sure 'twill not be long before
He'll see how they his Fruit devour,
And find a *Means* to fright away
These rav'nous *Fowls* and *Birds of Prey*.

He'll see the *Herns* with thievish Bills,
Robbing his *Ponds*, and catch his *Eels*,

And *Crows* and *Rooks* with empty Guts,
 Destroy his *Wheat* and steal his *Oats*.

He'll see the *Kites* the *Grange* surround.
 To try what Plunder's to be found,
 The *Redtails* and *Wood peckers* see,
 Making deep Holes in ev'ry Tree.

He'll see as plain as he can with,
 Almost in ev'ry Tree and Bush,
 Some pilf'ring *Bird* that only comes,
 To steal his *Cherries* or his *Plumbs*.

He'll see the *Coots* with addle Pates,
 Who are of late made *Magistrates*,
 And the *French-Gulls* whom heretofore,
 Our *Folly*, and their *Pride* brought o'er.

He'll see those *Beggars* strut about,
 With new and costly *Plumes* set out,
 And prattle too as bold and loud,
 As if they were a native *Brood*.

Hedge sparrows and *Tom tits* he'll see,
 Hopping about from *Tree* to *Tree*,
 With all their scurvy, pilf'ring *Breed*,
 From whence these *Gardens* once were free'd.

On t'other Hand, if he looks round,
 No native Bird will here be found,
 They're all with just *Resentment* gone,
 To some more hospitable *Dome*.

The

The *Linnet* and the cheerful *Lark*,
Have mournfully forsook the *Park*.

And to some foreign *Chace* retir'd,
Where they will sing and be admir'd.

That charming *Thrush* that us'd to sing,
His early Welcome to the *Spring*
Is forc'd to fly to 'scape the *Claws*
Of the Revengeful *Rooks* and *Daws*.

The *Nightingals* have left the *Grove*,
As hath the *Pheasant* and the *Dove*,
And are for *Food* and *Shelter* flown,
To *Springs* and *Groves* to them unknown.

The *Swans*, those Birds the *Gods* admire,
All from their *Native Streams* retire,
And all the Birds and Fowls of Use,
Intirely have forsook the *House*.

The *Cocks* that went to tread the *Hens*,
Are all constrain'd to leave their *Pens*,
Whilst an inferior mungrel Brood,
Strut in their *Walks*, and eat their *Food*.

Some of their *Kind* indeed remain,
But they are of a spurious Strain,
A false, malicious, lazy Race,
The Scorn and Scandal of the *Place*.

Whither the *Robinredbreast* stay,
Or whether he'll be forc'd away,

Time

Time, and the State of *Things* must show,
For yet no Fowl nor Bird can know.

Thus did the mournful *Raven* croak,
Till in his Turn the *Blackbird* spoke,
All you have said has o'er and o'er,
Been told unto our L O R D before.

At length he'll sure be pleas'd to hear,
What *Him* and *Us* concerns se near,
And by a wise and speedy *Change*,
Prevent the Ruin of the *Grange*.

He has been often told the *Kite*,
Was a rapacious Hypocrite,
A turbulent, malicious Creature,
And was his mortal Foe by Nature.

That holds *Cabals* in distant *Woods*.
And unfrequented *Solitudes*,
With *Owls* and *Bats*, at Midnight joyns,
To lay new *Schemes*, and form *Designs*.

Three *Governments* it has run down,
And had his Share in ev'ry One,
Been for and yet against 'em all,
And still rejoyc'd to see 'em fall.

By giving Aim from *Side to Side*,
He never fails to save his *Tide*,
Equally mixt with Love and Hate,
And at a Change ne'er comes too late.

I think there's few will say that he
Is overstock'd in *Policy*,
But having gain'd by chance a *Name*,
The Party trust him with their *Fame*.

And now h'as got our *Landlord's* Ear,
That Nothing's done without him here,
Altho' 'tis plain h'as rais'd his Honour
From the *Destruction* of the *Mannor*.

He has been likewise told, the *Owl*,
Was a must stubborn, head-strong *Fowl*,
And sullenly addicted still,
To his own Principle, his *Will*.

Not he one Moment will obey,
Longer than Things are done his *Way*,
Which makes the Party often doubt him,
And yet they cannot be without him.

There's Nothing but his *Interest*,
Can ease the Tortures of his Breast,
That only bind him to his *Party*,
And makes him to their Cause seem hearty.

But if your Landlord should displace him,
He'd be the first that wou'd disgrace him.
His Malice, Pride, and Want of Sence,
Would carry him to Violence.

Fools are most stubborn in their Way,
As Coyns are harden'd by th' Alloy,

And

*And Obstinacy's ne'er so stiff,
As when 'tis in a wrong Belief.*

He has been also told the *Jay*,
Is Nothing but a *Bird of Prey*,
A flatt'ring, empty, noisy *Thing*,
That only makes a *Shew* in *Spring*.

A *Bird* whose everlasting *Clack*,
Sets all *Birds* Ears upon the *Rack*,
Whose Volleys of eternal *Babble*,
Are only fit to please a *Rabble*.

He has been oft inform'd the *Pies*,
Are famous for their Theft and *Lies*,
And that the *Pie* that he employs,
His *Chickens* and his *Eggs* destroys.

That he and all his pilf'ring *Race*,
Live on the *Plunder* of the *Place*,
And that where'er the *Vermin* come,
They are a *Scandal* to the *Dome*.

He has been told the *Roob* and *Crow*,
Are working of his *Overthrow*,
And that the *Hens* and *Bitterns* joyn,
With *King-fishers* in the *Design*.

Yet *these*, and only such as *these*,
Of their more vile *Accomplices*,
Have got the *Power* and sole *Command*,
And Nothing now can *them* withstand.

These

These make and execute all Laws,
 Judge both the *Judges* and the Cause,
 Prescribe of *Right* and *Wrong* the Rules,
 And make us all their *Slaves* and *Tools*.

'Gainst them our Lord has no *Defence*,
 But an unguarded *Innocence*,
 They manage all Affairs of *Weight*,
 And have ingross'd his whole *Estate*.

These lay the Plans of War and Peace,
 And sway the Mannour as they please,
 Are *Magistrates* in ev'ry Town,
 And whom they please set up or down.

There is no Officer of State,
 But these, and only these create,
 These make, unmake, reverse, depose,
 And treat all others as their Foes.

They are the Guardians that increase,
 Or waste the Mannour as they please,
 And often use the Landlord ill,
 And this they will because they will.

Oh, says the *Raven*, honest Bird,
 You may rely upon my Word,
 If they are suffer'd to go on,
 Both We and They shall be undone.

Each Day produces new Portents,
 Denoting wonderful Events,

C

And

And direful Omens ev'ry where,
Attend the Earth, the Sea and Air.

Preserve, ye Gods, the *Groves* and *Woods*,
The *Springs*, the *Rivers*, and the *Floods*,
And set this antient Mannour free,
From civil Broils and Mutiny.

At present I forbear to show
What Time will quickly let you know,
And if that my Fore-sight be true,
The Omen seems to point at you.

The World is nat'rally averse,
To all the *Truth* it sees or hears,
But swallows *Falshood* and a *Lye*,
With Greediness and Gluttony.

And you perhaps among the Rest,
May think that you're so well posselt.
So firmly fixt, and so secure,
That you can any Storm endure.

But don't too far on this rely,
None loves the *Blackbird* more than I,
You'll surely find my Words prove true,
They'll try th' Experiment on you.

I daily round the *Mansion* fly,
And Things to you unseen, can 'spy,
To ev'ry Party I am known,
For *None* as yet do me disown.

You

You ev'ry Day obnoxious grow,
 And ev'ry Day will more be so.
 But still let this your Comfort be,
 You'll be at Length from Danger free.

Your Friends are numberless and great,
 And will not suffer your Defeat,
 Do but your Duty, and sit still,
 The Gods will guard you from all ill.

There is one Rule observ'd by few,
 That to ourselves, ourselves be true,
 Make this your Rule, and stand and fall
 Together and you'll save us all.

This will your *Character* restore,
 And make you greater than before,
 And all the *Mannours* round about
 Will think you *faithful, just and stout*.

Saith the good Bird, I now discern,
 How all their Matters seem to turn,
 The *Blackbirds* won't betray their Trust,
 And therefore they must suffer first.

But let them not too fast pursue,
 Ours and their own Destruction too,
 When e'er the *Blackbirds* Tribe shall fall,
 The Ruin must be general.

These *Threatnings* and this wild *Confusion*,
 This fatal *Madness* and *Delusion*,

Por-

Portend some Dangers to be nigh,
Beyond all *Signs* and *Prodigy*.

This our good Lord has oft been told,
And yet his hand he will not hold,
They will not let him hear nor see,
His own or our *Calamity*.

You are a *Bird* of great Fore-sight,
And never fail to judge Things right,
And better far than I can tell,
If things are manag'd ill or well.

You hear how ev'ry petty *Grange*,
Is loudly clam'ring for a Change,
And ten to one 'mong all the Fowls,
Abhor the *Rooks*, the *Kites*, the *Owls*.

Whither these fatal Murm'ring tend,
And where, and when, and how they'll end,
Are Secrets far too deep and high
For my poor humble Thoughts to fly.

If you that future Things can show,
Will be so kind to let me know,
I will apply my utmost Skill,
To disappoint th'approaching ill.

I know my *Tribe* with me will joyn,
In any good and just Design,
Then still perhaps our *Pray'rs* and *Songs*,
May calm our Fears, and ease our Wrongs.

How

How far, says he, we may presume,
To judge and censure Things to come,
At present shall not be the Case,
But what we dread must come to pass.

If after all that you can say
And all your *Tribe* can sing and pray,
Our *Landlord* will not turn his Ear,
These are the *Prospects* that I fear.

Our fierce *Contentions* will not cease
Till they disturb the publick Peace,
The *Fowls* and *Birds* will scold and jar,
Till they promote a Civil War.

And if they should so far succeed,
To make this antient *Mannour* bleed,
You'd be the first would sadly feel,
The dire Effects of Party-zeal.

Then you would see, tho' much too late.
The *Cause* and *Authors* of your Fate,
And with the utmost Guilt and Shame,
Yourselves for your *Disasters* blame.

Nor would your *Sufferings* atone,
For half the *Mischiefs* will be done,
But ev'ry *Bird* and *Fowl* must bear
In the *Catastrophe* a Share.

The Hedge-birds, and the common Fowl,
Would Birds of th' highest Birth controule,
And

And charge 'em with the black *Design*,
Of having chang'd the *Rightful Line*.

The *Canting Tribe* would scold and bawl,
Whilst *Birds of Prey* devour all,
Birds with long Bills and pointed Claws,
Would quite subvert and change the *Laws*.

And they'll be apt to tell you too,
You are the *Source* of all their Woe,
And further add, if you had try'd,
You might have stem'd, or turn'd the Tide.

The *Cocks* would with each other fight,
Some for the *Wrong*, and some the *Right*,
And some perhaps would fight to have
The Power all others to enslave.

Ruins and *Tumults* must ensue,
And Foreign Fowls invade us too,
With whom that Lord, who still *pretends*,
Will doubtless join to gain his Ends.

Out cries and Murders must engage,
Till Vengeance overtook the Age,
And our wild Factions worn to rest,
Retain us in our *rightful Landlord's* Breast.

To this the *Bird* with Grief replies,
Open, ye *Gods*, our *Landlord's* Eyes,
That he before 'tis quite too late,
May view the Mannour's wretched State.

Too

Too well I see it can't be long,
 Before this wild amphibious *Throng*,
 Will on some dang'rous *Project* fall,
 That must in Course involve us all.

The furious *Clamours* that we hear,
 And dreadful Threatnings ev'ry where,
 In loud and dismal Strains foretel,
 That all things here shall not go well:

If we look forward, we shall see,
 Nothing but Clouds of Misery,
 If backward, to our View appears,
 The Ruin of a Thousand Years.

The wicked *Things* that have been done,
 And these more wicked carrying on,
 Both cry aloud and blame the Gods,
 For stopping their *vengeful Rods*.

F I N I S.



Too well I see it can't be long,
The world will and will not be long,
Will on some dangerous point fall,
That must in some involve us all.

The danger is that we hear,
And that of I dreamings every where,
In food and drink and in our love,
That all things here shall not go well.

If we look forward, we shall see,
Nothing but clouds of misery,
If backward, to our view appears,
The Rain of a Thousand Years.

The wicked things that have been done,
And the more wicked carrying on,
Both cry aloud and blame the Gods,
For stopping their ears with gold.

A V I S

